

REMARKS

Claims 1-29, 69-71 and 91-92 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. The Examiner is authorized to charge any fees arising from this response to Deposit Account No. 10-0096.

The Examiner has rejected Claims

The Examiner has rejected Independent Claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by USP 5,189,642 (“Donoho”). Applicant traverses this rejection on the grounds that Donoho does not teach a seismic unit having a case in which all of the components of a seismic unit are disposed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that while Applicant asserted that while the geophones and other significant electrical components are all housed in a single case, the Applicant’s claim language did not exclude a case from being made of two types of housings, such as is shown in Donoho where the geophone is disposed in a separate housing from the control package. While Applicant believes this is in fact two separate cases, Applicant has amended the claims to address the Examiner’s comments.

The Examiner also noted that while Applicant has asserted that the lack of external electrical connections between the geophones and other control package components is a point of novelty of the claims, this claim limitation was not included in the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the claims to clarify that any electrical connections between the geophone(s) and any other electrical component of the system are internal to the housing. As noted in Applicant’s previous response filed on April 10, 2006, Donoho has external electrical connections between the geophone package 140 and the control package 123 (See Fig. 2 of Donoho), as well as the hydrophones 155 and the control package 123. These various external electrical connections—

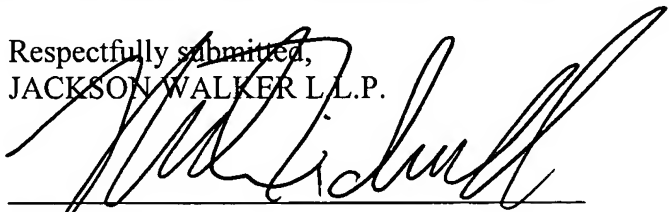
particularly the external geophone electrical connections—are one of the stated drawbacks to the prior art.

For the foregoing reasons, the rejection of Independent Claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Donoho should be withdrawn and these claims should be passed to allowance.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Examiner has relied on Donoho in combination with various other references to reject dependent claims 5-6, 12-15, 20, and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In these rejections, the Examiner relied on Donoho as teaching “a continuous case with the compartment for the geophones being a part of this case.” Since the Applicant has distinguished Donoho as set forth above, the use of Donoho in these rejections should be withdrawn, and accordingly, the rejection of these dependent claims should be withdrawn.

A prompt examination and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

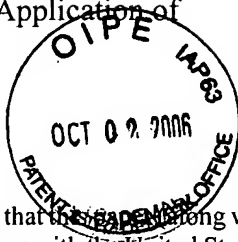
Respectfully submitted,
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In re Patent Application of
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Response/NO FEE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

Date: September 27, 2006


Renee Treider

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